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# Guide to using the Nikon BDC200 Reticle

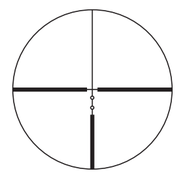
Thank you for selecting the Nikon SlugHunter. The Nikon SlugHunter has been developed specifically for fully rifled slug guns using sabot type slugs-the size, optics and reticle are optimized for your sport. While the SlugHunter can be used with Foster type slugs, the BDC reticle is designed for use with more aerodynamic slugs. The SlugHunter can also be used with guns using rifled choke tubes, however, you should actually shoot the gun at the specified ranges to be sure that the accuracy is acceptable for hunting conditions

The SlugHunter features Nikon's new BDC-200 reticle that can be custom tailored for the trajectory of your load. We are very proud of the ruggedness and superb performance built into every Nikon rifle scope and the SlugHunter carries on this tradition.

**Mounting the SlugHunter on your Slug Gun***
Ensure the following is carried out before shooting your SlugHunter equipped Slug Gun

All base and ring screws should be properly tightened.

- The scope is positioned in the rings allowing correct eye relief. You should see a complete field of view upon bringing the rifle to firing position. A good check for eye relief is to place the scope on the highest power (this is where the eye relief is most critical) close both eyes, shoulder the firearm, then open your shooting eye and examine the field of view. You should have a complete circular field of view every time.
- The reticle should be vertical. This can be assured by locking the rifle in a vise or suitable holder using a bubble level to ensure it is sitting square. Look through the scope at a known level surface. Loosen the rings screws enough to be able to turn the scope in the rings and level the horizontal section of the crosshair. This procedure is extremely important so that the firearm is not canted. Canting can have adverse effects on accuracy.



***While the Nikon SlugHunter was specifically designed for Fully Rifled Slug Guns, it can be used equally as well on other firearms as well**



**Sighting-in the SlugHunter**
There are two ways to sight in a firearm – the simple way or the frustrating way. Let's go directly to the simplest method. First, make a LARGE target. Large would be at least two feet square, preferably bigger. Cut up an over-sized cardboard box or get a sheet of construction paper from a craft shop. We want to ensure we catch the first shot fired.

Make an aiming mark in the center of the target with a felt pen. A simple one-half inch dot will suffice. Place the large target at 20 or 25 yards. Then fire a shot at this dot from a stable shooting rest. Unless your scope mounting system is very incompatible with your rifle you will hit the target somewhere.



Now for the neat trick! Replace the rifle in the shooting rest and place the crosshair intersection on the aiming dot. Without moving the firearm, move the crosshairs to the bullet hole. The rifle must remain absolutely stationary as the adjustment is made. Best to have a friend carefully turn the turrets while you look through the scope and provide directions. Fire one shot to confirm that your scope is now zeroed on the close range dot. Make minor corrections if required. The object is to get the point of aim identical to the point of impact. Always remember, when making windage and elevation adjustments, you are moving the impact of the bullet toward your original intended point of aim.

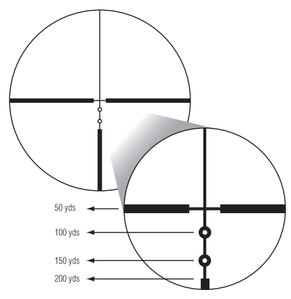
Now move your large target paper to 50 yards. Enlarge the aiming dot to one inch with your felt pen. Place small pieces of masking tape over the short-range bullet holes or simply mark them with the felt pen. Now fire a shot and again the bullet should hit somewhere on the large target paper. You can repeat the previous technique of moving the crosshairs to the bullet or simply measure how much correction will be required to bring the bullet to the aiming dot. Once again - the objective is to get the point of aim identical to the point of impact.



**Using the SlugHunter BDC-200 Reticle**
You have no doubt noticed the round circle in the lower vertical section of the BDC-200 reticle. The circle is positioned to enable accurate placement of shots out to 150 yards. Nikon's research indicates that current fully rifled slug guns using aerodynamic bullets are capable of lethal accuracy to that distance. The BDC-200 reticle will enable hunters to shoot with confidence – from point blank to 200 yards! By sighting in the center crosshair at 50 yards, the BDC 200 reticle provides a ballistic circle for 100 yards and 150yards. For slug guns that are extremely accurate, the top of the thick bottom vertical post represents the 200 yard point of impact.
It is important to note that many Slug gun/Load combinations do not provide sufficient accuracy past 150 yards. It is extremely vital that you find the ammunition that provides the greatest accuracy in your firearm.



By using a 2" circle (subtension at 100 yards) instead of a dot or hash mark, you have multiple aiming points (top, middle and bottom of the circle) to customize the reticle to your specific firearm. Should your firearm perform in a manner that is not consistent with the image below, use the technique mentioned later to maximize your firearm's performance and customize the reticle to your particular setup.






Nikon has designed this BDC 200 reticle to blend simplicity with accuracy – a difficult challenge considering the huge number of variables involved in placing a bullet drop compensating scope on a rifle. These would include:

- the mounting system and how true it positions the scope to the center-line of the bore
- the make, model and caliber of firearm involved
- the firearm's condition and inherent accuracy
- the ballistics performance of the ammunition – accuracy, velocity, uniformity and bullet characteristics such as ballistics co-efficients.
- a final variable is you - the shooter!

Other variables such as

- temperature
- humidity
- altitude
- barrel length
- bullet design



Let's face it, right out of the box no reticle can be expected to match every rifle and every trajectory perfectly. That is simply impossible given the above variables. What is possible is to offer a simple reticle design that can be adjusted or tailored to work with almost any rifle and ammo combination if the shooter does his homework. This requires one key element – the shooter must understand how the system works and he must go out and shoot his rifle at a variety of distances. He must determine the distance that he can shoot with confidence. How far out can you place your first shot into a ten-inch paper plate - every time? Let's call that your personal lethal hunting distance. The Nikon BDC 200 reticle will help you extend your personal lethal hunting distance and to shoot with complete confidence within that range.



There are two challenges for accurate placement of shots – drop and drift. Wind drift is the most difficult since wind speed and direction are infinite variables. At two hundred yards a ten mile per hour cross-wind can drift a bullet from ten inches to almost thirty, depending on velocity and bullet design. There is only one way to learn to shoot in wind and that is getting out there and shooting on windy days. Keep notes because the info is easily forgotten.

Trajectory is much easier to handle since gravity affects our bullets quite uniformly. The BDC-200 reticle will become your partner as you prepare for the eventuality of long shots.



Nikon has developed a simple technique for tuning the accuracy circle in the BDC-200 to the trajectory of your particular load. The bottom line is that we must shoot under controlled circumstances so that reticle performance can be tailored properly. This requires a safe shooting location, large targets to ensure catching every bullet, good shooting rests and a uniform loading technique. We need to shoot as accurately as possible so the rifle must be supported at the front and rear.
Nikon suggests the use of a laser rangefinder to ensure accurate distance determination for longer shots. Nikon offers a complete line of rangefinders that are optimized for hunting. We must know how far away our target is for correct hold-offs.



Now for the shooting procedure that will fine tune the BDC-200 reticle to your load.

- zero the scope at 50 yards so that your point of impact is identical to the point of aim.
- setup large cardboard targets at one hundred fifty yards. The target should be at least three feet tall. Place an aiming mark at the top of the large piece of cardboard.
- shoot three to five shots using your 50 yard zero. Do not be concerned about bullet drop. The challenge is to have a large enough cardboard to catch each shot and to form a nice group.



- mark the center of your 200- yard group with a large X using your felt marking pen.
- Go back to the firing position and align your scope on the aiming point and note where the 200 group is relative to the bottom thick post. Do not be concerned if the group is not in line with the top of the thick post.
- vary the power setting on the scope to move the bottom thick post to the center of the group.
- note the power setting that enables the 200 yards zero and do not move the magnification ring. You might consider a dab of nail-polish to mark the spot so you can return easily.
- move your target to 150 and repeat the firing procedure, noting exactly where your groups form relative to the circle. Do not move the magnification ring on the scope.
- move your target to 100 yards and repeat the firing procedure, noting exactly where your groups form relative to the circle. Do not move the magnification ring on the scope.
- You now have exact zero information for 50, 100, 150, and 200 yards. We suggest a simple drop-chart for field use. Accuracy circles are very adaptable. We can use three aiming locations, the intersections at the top and bottom with the vertical crosshair or the center of the circle. After tailoring the BDC-200 reticle your long-range hold-offs will be based on confidence rather than guess-work!



**Care of your Nikon SlugHunter Scope**
Rifle scope lenses should be kept as clean as possible during use. Never clean debris and marks from scope lenses by rubbing with a dry cloth or tissue. Always moisten the lens before wiping. Preferably brush loose material from the lens surface, moisten with a lens cleaning fluid and then wipe clean in circular motions. Lens cleaning solutions are available in spray-pump containers or simply apply a few drops to the lens cleaning cloth.

The following NIKON LENS Cleaning accessories are highly recommended for keeping your optics in excellent condition. These can be found at your local Nikon dealer.

- Nikon Len Pen - Simply brush first, then exhale on the lens to moisten and immediately rotate the soft cleaning pad over the marks. Work the pad in diminishing circles on the lens, ending with a simple twirl in the center.
- Nikon Micro Fiber Cleaning Cloth
- Nikon lens cleaner spray and moist cloths

Wipe the main tube of your scope with a clean dry cloth to remove fingerprints and surface blemishes. Debris such as mud should be removed with a water-moistened cloth with soft rubbing, followed by a light wiping with a dry cloth.